Ministry of Agriculture

Government of Saskatchewan

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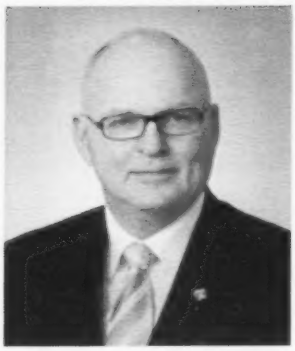
This annual report is also available in electronic format from the Ministry's website at *www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca*.

Letters of Transmittal



June 28, 2013

Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to the responsible growth of the province for the people of Saskatchewan, while observing the principles of accountability, transparency and responsible spending.

The 2012-13 Annual Report shows progress towards the commitments that relate to the Ministry as of March 31, 2013.

The initiatives and strategies pursued in 2012-13, and the results achieved, are communicated to the legislature and to the Saskatchewan people through this report. The results that have been achieved in the last fiscal year act as the basis for our initiatives in the next fiscal year and align with the Ministry's long-term strategic plan. Therefore, this report not only demonstrates our responsible spending, but also directs future resource allocation and planning.

As Minister of Agriculture, it is my pleasure to submit the Annual Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyle Stewart
Minister of Agriculture

June 28, 2013

The Honourable Lyle Stewart
Minister of Agriculture

Sir:

I have the honour of presenting to you the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report for the 12 months ending March 31, 2013.

The Ministry's Annual Report was prepared under my direction in accordance with the Government's Accountability Framework and its system of planning, measuring and reporting. I am ultimately responsible for the financial administration and management control of the Ministry. All key actions, and associated economic or fiscal implications contained in this report are, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and reliable.

Respectfully submitted,

Alanna Koch
Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Introduction

This annual report for the Ministry of Agriculture presents the Ministry's results on activities and outcomes for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2013. It reports to the public and elected officials on public commitments made and other key accomplishments of the Ministry.

Although a renewed vision in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond* was introduced in October 2012, the 2012-13 Annual Report will be presented in relation to the vision and goals that guided the development of the 2012-13 Plan. The Ministry's priorities are well aligned with the goals set out in the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth.

Results are provided on publicly committed strategies, actions and performance measures identified in the 2012-13 Plan.

The report also demonstrates progress made on Government commitments as stated in the Government Direction for 2012-13: Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage, the Minister's Mandate letter, throne speeches and other commitments and activities of the Ministry.

The annual report demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to effective public performance reporting, transparency and accountability to the public.

The 2012 Speech from the Throne was delivered on Oct. 25, 2012, and can be found at *www.gov.sk.ca/executive-council/throne-speech*.

The government-wide Budget Summary 2012-13: Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage is available at *www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2012-13*.

The Ministry Plan for 2012-13 is available at *www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/plan2012-13*.

Alignment with Government Direction

The Ministry's activities in 2012-13 align with Government's vision and four goals:

Our Government's Vision

A strong and growing Saskatchewan, the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.

Government's Goals

- Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people.
- Improving our quality of life.
- Making life affordable.
- Delivering responsive and responsible government.

Together, all ministries and agencies support the achievement of Government's four goals and work towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Agriculture's mandate is to foster a commercially viable, self-sufficient and sustainable agriculture and food sector. The Ministry encourages farmers, ranchers and communities to develop higher value-added production and processing and promotes sustainable economic development in rural Saskatchewan through better risk management.

Key programs that the Ministry delivered in 2012-13 were:

- Extension services to producers via 10 Regional Offices, seven Satellite Offices and the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (forage, farm business management, livestock, crops, irrigation);
- Business risk management programs (Crop Insurance, AgriStability, AgriInvest, AgriRecovery, Saskatchewan Feed and Forage Program);
- Strategic programming through Growing Forward (e.g. Farm Business Development Initiative, Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, On-Farm Food Safety, Post-Farm Food Safety, Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative, Voluntary Livestock Traceability); and
- Research programming (Agriculture Development Fund, Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies, support for eight Applied Research Management Sites in various parts of the province, Strategic Research Program at the University of Saskatchewan and the Western Beef Development Centre).

The Ministry serves the agriculture and value-added sector of the economy, which includes approximately 33,100 farms and ranches, with sales of more than $10,000, and generates more than $11.9 billion in farm cash receipts in Saskatchewan (2012).

The Ministry partners with many organizations in the development and delivery of its programming, such as the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Provincial Council of Agricultural Development and Diversification Boards as well as various commodity, marketing and development commissions.

The Ministry budgeted 445.0 full-time equivalents to deliver its programs and services, with actual utilization for 2012-13 coming in at 440.1. The underutilization was mainly a result of FTE management across the Ministry, which was partially offset by additional resources required for Pastures and Livestock Services Revolving Funds.

Progress in 2012-13

Government Goal: Growth

Strategy – Enhanced long-term competitiveness and sustainability of the industry

Key Actions & Results

Targeted investment in infrastructure, science and innovation.

Negotiate new multilateral and bilateral agreements with the federal government within the Growing Forward 2 Policy Framework.

- In January 2013, Saskatchewan signed on to the Growing Forward 2 (GF2), Multilateral Framework Agreement. GF2 will guide the next five years of federal-provincial agriculture programming and includes a comprehensive suite of business risk management programs and strategic initiatives.
- The Ministry of Agriculture negotiated the specific terms of GF2 programming with provincial, territorial and federal counterparts. This new, five-year agreement will allow Saskatchewan farmers, ranchers, researchers, agribusinesses and exporters to grow the sector. As a result of consultations with Saskatchewan producers, Saskatchewan is able to offer a comprehensive suite of business risk management programs and strategic initiatives, tailored to the needs of the Saskatchewan agriculture industry.
- Under GF2, the federal and provincial governments will invest $388 million in Saskatchewan strategic initiatives over five years, an increase of more than $25-million per year over the previous framework. Programs were designed to offer flexibility to meet the needs of Saskatchewan producers and agribusinesses.

Invest in wheat genomic research and the Global Institute for Food Security.

- In the fall of 2012 in follow-up to the Premier's announcement at the Wheat Summit, the Ministry issued a request for proposals for wheat research. More specifically, the request was for research proposals that focused on application of genomics to accelerate the development of wheat varieties and improve yield, quality, and tolerance to pests and/or extreme weather conditions. Successful applicants were required to clearly demonstrate partnerships between public and private research organizations with leveraged project funds at a minimum of 50 per cent of total project costs. Of the eight research proposals received, three were approved for a total commitment of $2.715 million, with an equal funding commitment from industry sources.
- In 2012-13, the Ministry also became a founding partner of the Canadian Wheat Alliance, with a financial commitment of $5 million over five years. This initiative is a partnership that will co-ordinate research and development projects to improve the yield of Canadian wheat. The Alliance will work together to increase the average net yield of wheat grown on the prairies from 34.6 to 44.8 bushels per acre. Other Alliance partners include the Crop Development Centre (CDC) at the University of Saskatchewan, the National Research Council (NRC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Their individual financial commitments per year (over five years) are $1.4 million (CDC), $13 million (NRC) and $4 million (AAFC).
- The Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) was launched on Dec. 10, 2012, by the three founding partners (Government of Saskatchewan, University of Saskatchewan and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan) with a $35 million commitment from Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan and $15 million from the Government of Saskatchewan over seven years. Dr. Roger Beachy was appointed as the founding Executive Director and CEO on Jan. 11, 2013.

Engage agricultural sector partners to ensure effective investment in research and development.

- The Ministry committed $9.9 million to 61 Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) projects announced in early 2013. In addition, funding partners (listed below) agreed to provide $3 million of the $13 million that was requested for the successful project applications.

1. Western Grains Research Foundation (23 projects)	$ 2,561,505
2. Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (4 projects)	$ 309,223
3. Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission (1 project)	$ 93,678
4. Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission (1 project)	$ 65,320

- In addition, ADF projects attracted $8.6 million in support from other organizations.

Develop strategies to promote and facilitate innovation within the sector, including the assessment of both existing and new research funding models.

- Agreements that focus on developing additional capacity to support innovation have been signed with Ag-West Bio Inc. and with the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre.
- A formal co-funding relationship has been established with Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF). WGRF has subsequently cancelled its own call for proposals and is using ADF's process to co-fund research projects.
- Through Meyers Norris Penny (MNP), a review of research and development activities in the beef, feed and forage sectors was completed.
- New Program Frameworks and Five-Year Research Plans were developed for Research Chairs funded through the Strategic Research Program.
- The Ministry facilitated the development of barley and wheat commissions. When fully functional, these commissions are expected to make additional investments to support wheat and barley research in Saskatchewan.

Invest in water infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of the M1 Canal and the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program.

Irrigation Services

- In the second year of construction, a further 1.75km of the M1 Canal was rehabilitated to add to the 1km completed in 2011-12. One of the six reaches of the 22.5km canal has now been rehabilitated with very positive local feedback.
- The East Side Pump Station rehabilitation was completed, with the exception of the installation of the pump condition monitoring equipment.
- Under the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP), 6,750 acres of infill capacity has been constructed in irrigation districts around Lake Diefenbaker since 2011. This brings infill capacity building to 11,750 acres. Producers have added a total of approximately 6,000 acres of on-farm irrigation systems in these districts since 2009.

Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program

- FRWIP supports the development of secure water sources in Saskatchewan to expand the livestock industry, increase irrigated acres, encourage rural economic activity and mitigate the effects of future drought. Farmers and ranchers across Saskatchewan are eligible for funding for the following projects:
  1. Large diameter and small diameter wells;
  2. Shallow or deep-buried pipelines; and
  3. Dugouts.
- Funding is also available to rural municipalities and First Nation bands to develop community wells.
- Irrigation districts can also receive funding to expand irrigation infill.
- FRWIP improves the business climate through infrastructure development (i.e. availability of water sources), and it is also part of the Growing Forward and Growing Forward 2 suite of programs provided in collaboration with the federal government.
- FRWIP was established under Growing Forward in April 2009. Throughout the course of the program, the Ministry funded more than 3,500 projects for a total of approximately $32.5 million. In 2012-13, more than 900 projects were completed with payments totalling more than $19.4 million.

Implement sector strategies that increase investment attraction in Saskatchewan, and contribute to the benefits of growing demand for food, feed, fuel and fibre.

- The Ministry continues to further develop and implement the Crop Strategy. The Crop Strategy is built around three main pillars:
  1. Innovation and Science pillar – supports the creation of a knowledge-based economy through Ministry investment in progressive and relevant research, innovation and commercialization that benefits the agriculture sector.
  2. Leadership and Investment pillar – focuses on actions related to key agricultural issues such as advocacy for science-based regulation that is predictable and allows for research and development investments to be made with confidence, and overcoming existing trade barriers by addressing market access issues.
  3. Building on Strengths pillar – includes collaborating with industry groups, increasing returns for field and high-value crops, introducing new crops and expanding cropping and marketing options for farmers, adding value to existing commodities and enhancing Ministry services related to diagnostics, pest control or production practices.

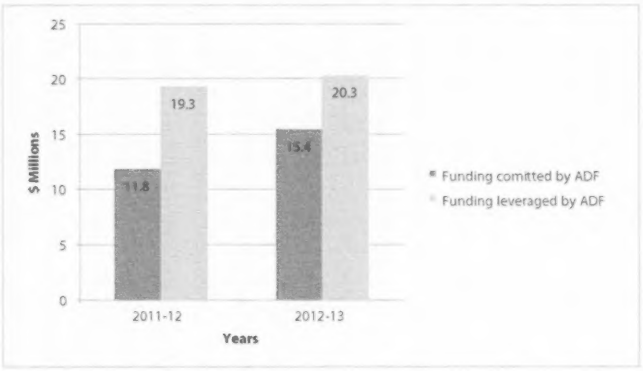
- The Ministry continues to work closely with other agencies, including the Ministry of the Economy, to attract and host individual investors interested in value-added processing initiatives in the province.
- To support this activity, the Ministry is preparing promotional and technical material for interested investors highlighting Saskatchewan's cereal crops, oilseed, pulses, specialty crops and livestock sectors.

Harmonize regulations with domestic and international trading partners.

- Under the New West Partnership (NWP) agreement, provinces must identify proposed regulations that could impact on cross-border trade, investment and labour mobility. The Ministry reviewed regulations sent from Alberta and British Columbia, as per the agreement, and undertook internal reviews of Ministry regulations to identify any that warrant review by Alberta and British Columbia. All regulations met the NWP requirements.
- The Ministry participated in Ottawa and Washington DC Canada United States (U.S.) Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) consultations aimed at Canada-U.S. regulatory harmonization/equivalency.
- Through the Tri-national Agriculture Accord, the Ministry facilitated U.S. state awareness of Canadian regulatory changes relating to Canada's low level presence policy for unapproved Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). The proposed changes would allow for imports with trace amounts of GMOs now approved in Canada, but only if they have been previously approved by the exporting country or a third party country. The proposed changes would bring Canada in-line with current U.S. policy.
- In October, the Ministry cooperated with U.S. states through the Tri-National Accord to support regulatory harmonization under the RCC.
- In 2012-13, the Ministry also facilitated input from agriculture stakeholders in Washington state, Montana, Idaho, Alaska, Oregon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Yukon into the RCC consultative process identifying regulations where Canada and the U.S. need to move towards harmonization.

Performance Measure & Results

Amount of industry investment leveraged by Ministry Agriculture Development Fund (ADF).



Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

The agriculture sector continues to receive significant benefits from the Government's commitment to invest in research infrastructure, intellectual capacity and research projects. Ministry-supported research activities since 1971 have led to the development of more than 300 new crop varieties for Saskatchewan producers.

The Ministry's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) is focused on supporting the industry's research priorities to ensure Saskatchewan producers have access to new and innovative knowledge and technologies.

The Ministry has established this measure to monitor its progress in supporting the research priorities of the agricultural industry. This measure also demonstrates the collaboration and coordination of research activities across various funding organizations present in the province.

There is no minimum or maximum leverage for an individual project. For some, there may be zero leverage due to the nature of the research and the ability of the industry to support the research. Conversely, for other multi-partnered projects, there may be multi-fold leverage. Due to the nature of the research, the leverage could vary from one year to another. The Ministry is confident that over the next four years, on average, ADF investment (research projects) will be able to leverage 75 per cent funding (cash and in-kind) from other sources.

Strategy – Enhanced trade advocacy

Key Actions & Results

Support industry to enhance trade in priority markets.

In collaboration with partners, implement strategies and policies in international market development, investment attraction and trade policy.

- The Ministry worked with industry on trade missions and incoming buyer missions to promote Saskatchewan and its agricultural products in order to increase the amount and value of exports and facilitate investment in value-added production.
- The Ministry was active on three major market activities, including:
  1. The Premier's mission to China, Indonesia and Singapore in September 2012;
  2. The New West Partnership agriculture mission to China, Japan and Korea in September 2012; and
  3. The Deputy Minister's mission to Singapore and Indonesia in March 2013.
- In addition, the Ministry also:
  1. Established and managed the International Market Development Program to provide Saskatchewan industry with financial assistance for new marketing activities;
  2. Developed new themed marketing brochures, videos and display that promote our agricultural strengths; and
  3. Assisted Intergovernmental Affairs and the Protocol Office in the hosting of official and business delegations to the province.

Pursue Saskatchewan's trade policy objectives through international and internal dispute settlement proceedings and day-to-day trade policy advocacy.

- The Ministry's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) participated in a mission to Texas. The Ministry worked closely with the Canadian Consulate in Dallas and the Texas Farm Bureau on a trade advocacy mission that connected YAC members with young farmers from Texas and California.
- At the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit in Saskatoon, SK, the Ministry was active in re-establishing the PNWER Agriculture Working Group and planning the Cross Border Livestock Health Conference.

The Ministry was the Canadian lead at the Tri-National Agricultural Accord and was active in passing joint statements on: Country of Origin Labelling, Regulatory Cooperation Council and the Trans Pacific Partnership.

The Ministry has worked closely with Intergovernmental Affairs and the Saskatchewan agriculture industry to promote Saskatchewan's interests in the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement and press for positive outcomes for Saskatchewan's agriculture sector.

The Ministry was an active participant in the Federal-Provincial Agriculture Trade Policy Committee, using the committee to monitor and push for resolutions to Saskatchewan's current trade policy issues including: Country of Origin Labelling, Mexico canary seed requirements, pork access due to ractopamine and Canada's bilateral free-trade negotiations with India, Japan, Korea and the Trans Pacific Partnership.

Performance Measure & Results

Percentage of Government trade missions that promote agriculture in Saskatchewan.

In 2012-13, 50 per cent of Government trade missions promoted agriculture, including the Premier's trade mission to Asia; the New West Partnership agriculture mission to China, Japan and South Korea; and the Deputy Minister's mission to Singapore and Indonesia. Twenty-five per cent of the 2011 Government trade missions promoted agriculture.

Source: Government of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan's agriculture sector is export oriented, and in 2012, provincial agriculture and agri-food exports exceeded $11 billion for the first time. In 2012, Saskatchewan shipped more than $100 million in agricultural exports to each of 18 different countries, making Saskatchewan's portfolio the most diversified in Canada.

Competition for critical and developing international markets is intense. Government trade missions, including missions focused on market development, market access and trade policy or a combination of all three, are important for maintaining and building on the province's exports.

Trade missions incorporating market development activities support industry by promoting Saskatchewan agriculture's strengths, in addition to building and strengthening the industry's reputation for consistent, high-quality, safe products. Trade missions incorporating market access and trade policy activities help in maintaining and securing better market access. Trade missions can also further Saskatchewan's agricultural interests on regulatory matters and influence federal trade policy and the policies of key trade partners.

The Ministry of Agriculture supports trade missions through the development of professional, high-quality promotional material and the collaborative work with other ministries, industry, provinces and the federal government in advance of, as part of, and in follow-up to trade missions. Other support activities include providing trade statistics, background information, technical support and collaborating on messaging.

The percentage of government trade missions that incorporate agriculture provides a proxy measure of the Ministry's market development, market access and trade policy activities. Ministry officials will engage with other ministries to ensure government trade missions include a focus on agriculture.

Government Goal: Improving our quality of life

Strategy – Improved public perception of agriculture

Key Actions & Results

Partner to promote the benefits of agriculture.

Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to enhance awareness of areas such as environmental stewardship, economic impact, adoption of technology and food safety.

- The Ministry hosted an Agriculture Awareness Summit in February 2013, with a cross-section of agriculture and agri-food industry stakeholders to gain a greater understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities facing the industry; identify actions for a collective industry strategy; and identify the roles of individuals, industry and government in improving agriculture's profile.
- Based on Summit and stakeholder feedback, the Ministry is developing a comprehensive strategy to: enhance the awareness of agriculture as a solution provider; showcase farmers and ranchers as good stewards of land and livestock and producers of safe and healthy food; and promote agriculture as an economic engine for the province.
- The Ministry provided 10 scholarships of $1,000 each through the Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship Program to Grade 12 students from across the province who are pursuing agriculture-related post-secondary training. Students wrote an essay or produced a video on why agriculture, now more than ever, is a vibrant, diverse industry.
- Regional Specialists gave presentations on agriculture topics to school classes and school groups throughout the year. During Agriculture Month in October, specialists provided articles and interviews to weekly newspapers and radio stations on agriculture awareness topics.

Partner with 4-H, Agriculture in the Classroom and the Ministry of Education to provide education programming to youth.

- In 2012-13, the Ministry provided $150,000 to Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) to foster an understanding and awareness of the importance of agriculture with students in the classroom. This year, AITC increased the number of learning kits shared with school divisions across the province. The kits create hands-on opportunities for students to learn about Saskatchewan agriculture. Other important projects included Little Green Thumbs and outreach events and presentations.
- The Ministry continues to work with the Saskatchewan 4-H Council through its financial contribution of $300,000 plus almost $100,000 of in-kind support and membership on its Board of Directors. 4-H provides opportunities to Saskatchewan youth to develop skills to become tomorrow's leaders.
- The Ministry of Education is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture in the promotion and administration of the Green Certificate program. This program is an apprenticeship-style, on-farm, skills-training program available for high school credit. New registrations almost doubled from 46 in 2011-12 to 88 in 2012-13. Also, 12 certificates were awarded to students. The most popular areas include cow-calf and field crop technician.

Task the Minister's Youth Advisory Committee with identifying opportunities for youth in agriculture.

- The Minister's Youth Advisory Committee consists of eight producers under the age of 35 from around the province. The committee met four times throughout the year and has provided extensive feedback, advice and direction to the Ministry on topics such as agriculture awareness initiatives, issues around the transition of the federal pastures program, Growing Forward and Growing Forward 2 programming and the development of a professional agriculture operators training program. Some of the committee members also represented the province during the tour organized in partnership with the Texas Farm Bureau from November 5 to 10, 2012, in Waco, Texas. They served as excellent ambassadors for the agriculture sector in the province.

Performance Measure & Results

Public understanding of agriculture as measured by the percentage of Saskatchewan residents with a positive perception of agriculture.

2013 Agriculture Awareness Polling: A total of 801 Saskatchewan respondents, representative of the province by gender, age and region, completed 10 questions on their perception of agriculture, through omnibus polling.

According to the poll, 89 per cent of Saskatchewan people agree or strongly agree with the following statement: I have a positive perception of Saskatchewan agriculture.

Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

This measure is intended to assess the percentage of Saskatchewan residents who have a positive perception of agriculture.

Agriculture has played a critical role in Saskatchewan's growth and identity. Today, agriculture is a progressive and economically crucial part of Saskatchewan, yet the industry faces a lack of public knowledge, widespread misinformation and a lack of public interest in the field as a career.

The average citizen is removed from direct food production. Often, it is sensational media stories that influence the public's opinion of the agriculture industry and our food supply. As a result, the public is liable to be exposed to information that may be erroneous, inaccurate, fabricated or biased.

The Ministry of Agriculture is working to provide the public with information about the importance, relevance and sustainability of the province's agricultural industry in order to improve the public understanding of agriculture-related issues.

A poll of Saskatchewan residents' perceptions about agriculture took place in March 2013. The poll provides the Ministry with a better understanding of the public's perceptions of agriculture, informs the next steps required in an agricultural awareness strategy and provides a benchmark for future years. The Ministry engaged a professional research firm in order to ensure accurate and reliable data was obtained, with the understanding that all scientific surveys contain an inherent margin of error.

Government Goal: Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategy – Enhanced client service

Key Actions & Results

Efficiently develop and deliver effective programs and services.

Ensure farmers, ranchers and industry have access to research, production and business information, risk management tools and Ministry services.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

- The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) continues to enhance the insurance available to Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. SCIC expanded the insurable areas for soybean and the Corn Heat Unit Program making these programs more widely available. SCIC expanded yield trending to include hard red spring wheat, hard white spring wheat and oats, increasing yield coverage by nine, 7.8 and 13 per cent, respectively. SCIC is also continuing enhancements from past years including up to $100 per eligible acre for Unseeded Acreage coverage and 100 per cent Wildlife Damage Compensation. AgriStability advisors are accessible in all of SCIC's 21 Customer Service Offices to assist producers, accountants and form preparers with necessary program information. SCIC launched an online tool called AgConnect for AgriStability making it more efficient to provide program information and improve processing timelines.

Regional Services

- The Regional Services Branch delivered extension services to farmers, ranchers and industry through 10 Regional Offices, seven Satellite Offices and the Agriculture Knowledge Centre. This includes specialist services in the areas of crops, forage, livestock, farm business management and value-added processing.
- Services and information were provided to approximately 24,400 clients during the year, by telephone, office visits and farm/business visits.
- Regional Specialists organized or co-organized 152 extension events across Saskatchewan, attended by more than 6,000 producers. Regional and Provincial Specialists also gave approximately 300 technical presentations and worked on 58 demonstrations and applied research projects.
- Specialists also provided agriculture information through weekly newspaper columns, radio interviews and regular spots on CTV's *Farmgate*.
- Electronic newsletters are increasingly becoming an important and timely way of distributing information to farmers and ranchers, with Regional Offices sending out regular, Stay Connected newsletters to more than 4,000 subscribers.
- The Ministry continues to produce its newsletter, Agriview, which provides producers with production information and highlights the Province's agricultural issues and activities. It is delivered to more than 40,000 farm households, 10 times per year.

Crop Protection Laboratory

- In 2012-13, 871 samples were handled through the Crop Protection Lab. This included: 274 crop disease identification requests, 30 weed identification requests, 20 insect identification requests, assessment of 167 samples for fusarium head blight, 261 requests for assessment of Dutch Elm Disease and assessment of herbicide resistance in 119 samples.
- Significant upgrades were completed to the Crop Protection Laboratory through equipment purchase and renovation to improve the diagnostic capability for Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. The provincial government partnered with SaskCanola, SaskFlax and the Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission to expand the diagnostic ability of the Crop Protection Lab.

Farm and Value-Added Business Development Programming

- 2012-13 was a busy year for Regional Services in delivering the Farm Business Development Initiative (FBDI) and FBDI for Young Farmers under the Growing Forward agreement. In this final year of the program, more than 1,230 new applicants were approved for funding and $10 million was paid to new and existing applicants. Over the life of the program, the Ministry worked with more than 4,500 clients and provided more than $13 million in support for consulting services and training activities. The FBDI programs provide farmers and ranchers with business plan development and training to help improve their farm business management.
- In 2012-13, the Ministry received 31 applications for the Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative (SAVI) and approved 21 projects for a total of $497,822. This program is funded under the Growing Forward framework. SAVI supports up to $100,000 for agri-businesses in product/process development, systems improvements, marketing and skills training. The goal is to assist in the development and expansion of small to medium-sized enterprises or producer/processor organizations involved in adding value to agricultural products. Over the four-year program, SAVI supported 57 agri-businesses and provided almost $1.7 million in financial support.

Environmental Farm Planning and Farm Stewardship Program

- Environmental Farm Planning and the Farm Stewardship Program were delivered with funding from the Growing Forward agreement via a third-party contract with the Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards (PCAB). Growing Forward also funded Agri-Environmental Group Planning, which was delivered on a watershed basis and led by farmers who live in the watershed. A group plan was also delivered on a provincial basis through a third-party contract with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, providing education and planning on the control and eradication of invasive plant species.
- In 2012-13, spending on the delivery of the environmental programming was as follows: Group Plan delivery – $0.9 million; PCAB delivery – $1.42 million. In 2012-13, producers enrolled in the Farm Stewardship Program have made claims and been paid for 2,543 projects for funding of approximately $8.7 million.
- During 2012-13, 163 endorsed Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs) were produced. Since the start of Growing Forward in 2008, 1,335 new EFPs have been developed and since the inception of the EFP program in 2005, 12,135 EFPs have been developed and endorsed.

Develop and implement new ways of offering branch and Ministry services online through interactive forms and "smart" technologies.

- The Ministry implemented an online credit card payment option for pesticide vendor licenses.
- The Ministry prepared and posted two how-to production videos "Perennial Forage Demonstration", and "Pruning Fruit Trees for Commercial Production".
- Program application forms are available in fillable PDF format, allowing producers to complete their forms on their computer and then email them directly into the program database for processing. These forms can also be printed off and faxed directly into the database or mailed into program administration.
- Webinars were used as a new way to deliver information directly to the homes of farmers and ranchers during the past year and were very successful. Nine webinars were offered on topics such as trace mineral supplementation, forages on saline soils, crop diseases, cattle market updates, succession planning, business structures and traceability. Attendance ranged from 25 to almost 100 participants, including a few joining by smartphone.
- In 2013, a new option was developed for Crop Reporters to submit their weekly crop reports online, either through their computers or smartphones. This option was developed to provide added convenience to Crop Reporters and to help in recruiting new Crop Reporters.
- The Ministry launched a Twitter account to provide producers a new way to receive information.

Review and reform legislation, regulation and policy to provide streamlined client service.

- The Ministry enhanced regulatory transparency and accountability by continuing to operate within a five-year regulatory review framework. The framework, which annually identifies regulations requiring review, affirms the Ministry's commitment to ensuring that regulations are current, responsive to the needs of industry and deliver effective programs, while at the same time do not place an unreasonable regulatory burden on stakeholders.
- In 2012-13, the Ministry introduced legislation to amend *The Animal Products Act* and *The Animal Identification Act*, as well as proposed the repeal of *The Vegetable, Fruit and Honey Sales Act*, and worked toward repealing other legislation that is no longer required for program delivery.
- The Policy Branch worked with agriculture producer stakeholder groups to develop a new Agri-Food Council Policy for establishing new agencies under *The Agri-Food Act, 2004*. Previously, commodity groups that sought to establish levy-funded producer groups under *The Agri-Food Act, 2004* were required to consult with their industry. However, there was no mechanism in place to guarantee that producer groups had been consulted with. Since any potential new agency would be established through regulations, and agencies are funded by levies on sales of a particular commodity, it is critical that all impacted producers are made aware of proposals and have an opportunity to comment on them. The new policy ensures that a notification is published in Agriview, the Ministry's publication sent to all farm households in Saskatchewan. The notification will indicate that a plan for a new agency has been received and that producers are invited to comment. The plan is also published on the Ministry's website. This approach ensures that producers have a chance to voice any concerns they may have with the establishment of a new agency under *The Agri-Food Act, 2004*.
- Changes to *The Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program Regulations* had a significant impact on provincial irrigation districts in 2012. Irrigation districts are eligible for infill funding under the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP). However, Saskatchewan had no irrigation construction standards for irrigation districts to follow. The Irrigation Branch compiled and published *The Saskatchewan Irrigation Design and Construction Standards Manual*, which enabled irrigation districts to have a reference resource available for consulting engineers when designing and supervising infill projects funded under FRWIP. Using the standards articulated in the manual, the projects were consistently designed to approve standards and FRWIP payments could be quickly and efficiently approved.

Performance Measure & Results

Percentage of clients satisfied with programs and services.

2012 Client Services Survey: A total of 1,002 surveys were completed. According to the survey, 66 per cent of producers surveyed were satisfied with Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

2008 Client Services Survey: A total of 753 producers were surveyed in March 2008. According to the survey, 39 per cent of producers who have accessed Saskatchewan Agriculture programs and services answered either satisfied or completely satisfied to the following question: How would you rate your overall satisfaction with Saskatchewan Agriculture service delivery, using a five point scale where one means not satisfied at all and five means completely satisfied?

Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

This measure is intended to assess the percentage of clients satisfied with the programs and services delivered by the Ministry.

The Ministry offers many programs and services designed to assist farmers and ranchers, including a wide-variety of publications (both print and electronic), customer service telephone lines, specialist services and program development.

Technological advancements in areas such as social media, mobile phones, tablets and online transacting are happening at a rapid pace. As technology changes, the Ministry must update its service and information delivery systems to ensure clients' needs are being met, and programs and services are supportive of their overall agricultural operations.

A formal survey of client experiences with Ministry programs and services took place in 2012. The survey provides a performance indicator that will help Ministry officials gauge customer service and satisfaction, and will provide a benchmark for future years. The Ministry engaged a professional research firm in order to ensure accurate and reliable data was obtained, with the understanding that all scientific surveys contain an inherent margin of error.

Survey Objectives

The objectives of the client services survey were to provide information to the Ministry in order to:

- understand which programs and services are being utilized by the farming community, and then determine if these services are meeting client needs;
- understand how technologically advanced farm households are in Saskatchewan and understand which methods of communication they prefer;
- gain insight concerning producers' overall opinion of the Ministry service delivery and then evaluate current Ministry performance with information from the 2008 survey;
- provide information that will help the Ministry and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation make decisions to achieve the goal of enhanced client service and experience; and
- gain information concerning recent changes in farming practices as a result of funding or information received from the Ministry.

2012-13 Financial Overview

Expenses:

During 2012-13, the Ministry of Agriculture incurred expenses of $504.1 million, which is $73.3 million over the original expense budget of $430.8 million. Additional expenditures of $85.3 million were incurred to fund programs under Business Risk Management: primarily AgriStability, AgriInvest and Crop Insurance Premiums. Other additional expenditures include $0.9 million in funding for the Meat Hygiene Pilot Project.

Offsetting these additional expenditures were $9.6 million in operational savings realized across the Ministry; a $2.3 million reduction in Growing Forward expenses due to higher expenses incurred in 2011-12, $0.5 million in reduced incentives under the Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program; and $0.5 million for reduced Bad Debt Allowance.

The revised budget includes supplementary estimates of $43.154 million for Crop Insurance Premiums, as well as AgriStability and AgriInvest Program payments.

The following table provides a summary of expenses:

	Original Budget ($000's)	**Revised Budget** ($000's)	**Actual** ($000's)
Personal Services	26,444	26,444	23,400
Supplier and Other Payments	24,490	24,490	13,754
Transfers to Individuals	303,037	346,191	390,496
Transfers for Public Services	74,700	74,700	74,249
Amortization Expense	2,106	2,106	2,166
Total	430,777	473,931	504,065

Revenue:

In 2012-13, the Ministry collected $165.1 million in revenue; up $52.2 million from the Budget Estimate of $112.9 million. The increased revenue is primarily attributed to a refund of prior year expenses under AgriStability of $31.0 million, a $14 million unbudgeted dividend from the Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan, $11.7 million in additional land sales, a $1.5 million return of surplus funds from the Pastures Revolving Fund and $0.1 million in increased interest revenue. There was also a $2.0 million refund of prior year payables primarily for the provincial contributions to Saskatchewan Feed and Forage Program and rental costs for the Provincial Veterinary Laboratory.

Offsetting these increased revenues is decreased agricultural lease revenue of $3.7 million due to increased land sales and fewer agricultural leases, a reduction in federal funding under Growing Forward of $3.5 million due to increased revenue received in 2011-12, a $0.5 million reduction in irrigation services as well as a $0.4 million decrease in licenses and permits.

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):

The Ministry budgeted 445.0 FTEs to deliver its programs and services, with actual utilization for 2012-13 coming in at 440.1. The underutilization was mainly a result of FTE management across the Ministry, which was partially offset by additional resources required for Pastures and Livestock Services Revolving Funds.

2012-13 Financial Schedules

	(in thousands of dollars)				
	2011-12 Actuals	2012-13 Estimates	2012-13 Actuals	Variance over (under)	Notes
Revenue					
Land Revenue:					
Crown Land Sales	$ 30,198	$ 16,400	$ 28,094	$ 11,694	1
Rent and Penalty on Land Leases	$ 24,333	$ 31,230	$ 27,547	$ (3,683)	2
Land Licenses and Permits	$ 428	$ 576	$ 372	$ (204)	3
Interest	$ 52	$ 29	$ 42	$ 13	
Receipts from Federal Government	$ 52,533	$ 62,150	$ 58,598	$ (3,552)	4
Privileges, Licenses and Permits	$ 314	$ 400	$ 214	$ (186)	5
Sales, Services and Service Fees	$ 1,238	$ 1,487	$ 1,016	$ (471)	6
Interest Revenue	$ 515	$ 450	$ 535	$ 85	7
Other Revenue	$ 29,018	$ 65	$ 46,539	$ 46,474	8
Refund of Previous Year Expenditures	$ 5,883	$ 110	$ 2,142	$ 2,032	9
Total Revenue	$ 144,512	$ 112,897	$ 165,099	$ 52,202	
Expenditure					
Central Management and Services	$ 9,681	$ 10,885	$ 10,151	$ (734)	1
Industry Assistance	$ 5,662	$ 5,409	$ 5,156	$ (253)	2
Land Management					
Land Management Services	$ 3,176	$ 3,054	$ 3,302	$ 248	3
Land Revenue Bad Debt Allowances	$ 77	$ 500	$ 3	$ (497)	4
Crown Land Sale Incentive Program	$ 2,060	$ 3,000	$ 2,493	$ (507)	5
Subtotal	$ 5,313	$ 6,554	$ 5,798	$ (756)	
Policy and Planning	$ 3,741	$ 3,745	$ 3,472	$ (273)	6
Research and Technology					
Project Coordination	$ 853	$ 914	$ 914	$ –	
Research Programming	$ 19,340	$ 19,526	$ 19,133	$ (393)	7
Subtotal	$ 20,193	$ 20,440	$ 20,047	$ (393)	

2012-13 Financial Schedules

	(in thousands of dollars)				
	2011-12 Actuals	2012-13 Estimates	2012-13 Actuals	Variance over (under)	Notes
Regional Services					
Regional Services	$ 28,523	$ 41,892	$ 35,613	$ (6,279)	8
Financial Programs					
Financial Programs Management	$ 7,000	$ 8,813	$ 7,050	$ (1,763)	9
Business Risk Management					
Crop Insurance Program Delivery	$ 29,510	$ 29,510	$ 29,510	-	
Crop Insurance Premiums	$ 122,967	$ 147,590	$ 152,790	$ 5,200	10
AgriStability Program Delivery	$ 16,700	$ 20,505	$ 20,505	-	
AgriStability	$ 40,600	$ 81,160	$ 145,040	$ 63,880	11
AgriInvest	$ 42,800	$ 42,600	$ 58,561	$ 15,961	12
AgriRecovery	$ 100,312	–	$ 277	$ 277	13
Subtotal	$ 352,889	$ 321,365	$ 406,683	$ 85,318	
Irrigation and Water Infrastructure					
Irrigation Services	$ 7,477	$ 9,568	$ 8,050	$ (1,518)	14
Budget Appropriation	$ 440,479	$ 428,671	$ 502,020	$ 73,349	
Supplementary Estimates/Special Warrants	$ –	$ 43,154	–	$ (43,154)	15
Statutory Adjustment	$ –	$ –	$ –	$ –	
Total Revised Appropriation	$ 440,479	$ 471,825	$ 502,020	$ 30,195	
Capital Asset Acquisitions	$ (2,874)	–	$ (181)	$ (181)	16
Amortization of Capital Assets	$ 2,151	$ 2,106	$ 2,166	$ 60	17
Other	$ (124)	$ –	$ 60	$ 60	18
Total Revised Estimates and Expenses	$ 439,632	$ 473,931	$ 504,065	$ 30,134	
FTE Staff Complement (FTE-Full Time Equivalent)	$ 451.2	$ 445.0	$ 440.1	$ (4.9)	1

2012-13 Financial Schedules – Notes

Explanations of variances which exceed $50,000 between Estimates and Actuals.

Revenue

1. Increased acres sold at higher prices as well as increased sales of land with book value.
2. Decrease in agricultural leases due to higher sales under the Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program.
3. Decrease in the sale of land with resource considerations.
4. Decreased revenue from the federal government for non-BRM programs under Growing Forward due to higher than budgeted revenue in 2011-12.
5. Decreased revenue from water pumping program.
6. Lower than expected revenue from irrigation districts.
7. Increased interest revenue from the Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program; partially offset by decreased interest due to write-offs of short-term hog loans.
8. Dividend from the Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan, the reimbursement of petroleum and gas revenue from the Pastures Revolving Fund and the refund of prior year expense in AgriStability.
9. Reduction in the previous year liability for Saskatchewan Feed and Forage Programs and the Provincial Veterinary Lab.

Expenditure

1. FTE management and savings in accommodations and other operating expenses.
2. Decreased demand under the Gopher Control Program and decreased funding for the Feral Wild Boar Program due to timing of grant payments.
3. Increased salary costs and other operating expenses related to the transition of the federal pastures program.
4. Decrease in Bad Debt Allowance.
5. Lower than expected total land sales under the Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program resulted in lower than expected cost of incentives for the program.
6. FTE management and savings in IT and other operating expenses.
7. Decreased funding due to timing of research grants.
8. FTE management, operational savings, contractual services, laboratory fees and program expenses.
9. FTE management, savings in contractual services and reversal of guaranteed debt payable.
10. Increased Crop Insurance premiums due to increased seeded acres and enhanced irrigation top-up.
11. Increased provincial contributions required to fully fund the increase AgriStability 2011 program year costs from the original federal government's forecast.
12. Based on the federal government's forecast, higher contributions were required to fully fund the AgriInvest 2012 program year.
13. Additional provincial funding required for 2010-11 Canada-Saskatchewan Excess Moisture Program payments not covered by the federal government.
14. Lower costs incurred for rehabilitation work on irrigation infrastructure, FTE management and operational savings.
15. The Ministry received Supplementary Estimates in 2012-13 for the increased costs in Crop Insurance Premiums, AgriStability and AgriInvest programs.
16. Capital expenditures for operating equipment and leasehold improvements.
17. Amortization slightly higher than budgeted due to acquisitions of capital assets.
18. Changes in inventory and prepaid expenses.

FTE Staff Complement

1. FTE management, including the Workforce Adjustment Strategy, partially offset by additional staff required for Livestock Services and Pastures Revolving Funds. Ministry of Agriculture's 2012-13 FTE budget is 445.0, which is net of a (3.0) FTE reduction assigned in-year from the 2012-13 unallocated balance. The variance to budget number of (4.9) compares 2012-13 actual FTEs to 2012-13 final FTE budget.

For More Information

For more information on Ministry of Agriculture programs and services:

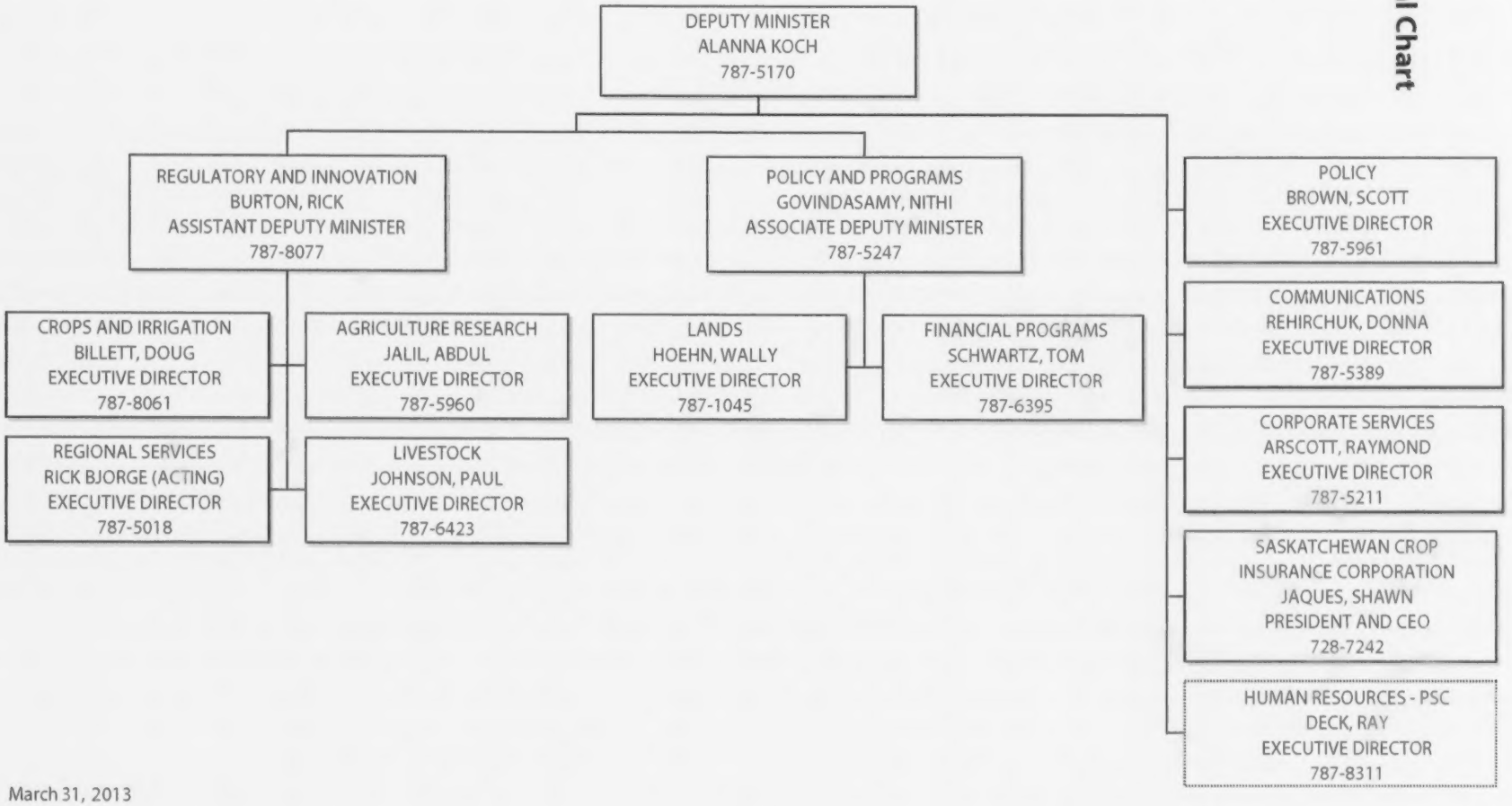
Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or by email at aginfo@gov.sk.ca; or

Visit the Ministry's website at *www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca*.

Appendices

Appendix A: Ministry Organizational Chart

Saskatchewan Agriculture
2013-2014



March 31, 2013

477.0 FTE

Appendix B: Loans And Guaranteed Debt

Livestock Loan Guarantee (LLG) Program

The LLG Program facilitates growth of Saskatchewan's livestock industry by providing producer associations access to credit at favourable interest rates and with limited collateral requirements for purchase of cattle, sheep or bison. The program may also be used as a management tool to generate cash flow through retained ownership options. The LLG Program supports increased livestock production by providing guarantees to lenders who make loans to production associations and individual feedlot operators.

During 2012-13, budgeted and actual guarantees under this program were:

Breeder Associations (In thousands of dollars)	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Variance** Over (Under)
Beginning Balance	$15,000	$9,481	
Additions		$ 509	
Reductions	$(2,000)		
Ending Balance	$13,000	$9,990	$(3,010)

Explanation of Variance:
Program participation is lower as a result of market uncertainty, producers exiting the livestock industry and additional options for financing.

Feeder Associations (In thousands of dollars)	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Variance** Over (Under)
Beginning Balance	$15,000	$6,350	
Additions		$1,258	
Reductions	$(5,000)		
Ending Balance	$10,000	$7,608	$(2,392)

Explanation of Variance:
Program participation is lower as a result of market uncertainty, producers exiting the livestock industry and additional options for financing.

Individual Cattle Feeder Loan Guarantees (In thousands of dollars)	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Variance** Over (Under)
Beginning Balance	$1,000	$ 13	
Additions		$113	
Reductions			
Ending Balance	$1,000	$126	$(874)

Explanation of Variance:
Program participation is lower as a result of market uncertainty, producers exiting the livestock industry and additional options for financing.

Feedlot Construction Loan Guarantees (In thousands of dollars)	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Variance** Over (Under)
Beginning Balance	$ 4,000	$ 2,007	
Additions		$ 113	
Reductions	$(1,000)	$ (993)	
Ending Balance	$ 3,000	$ 1,014	$(1,986)

Explanation of Variance:
No new feedlot construction has taken place.

Short-Term Hog Loan Program(s)

The Short-Term Hog Loan Program(s) (STHP) supported increased livestock production by providing loans to producers. The initial Short-Term Hog Loan Program, announced in December 1998, assisted hog producers in offsetting operating losses due to a severe reduction in hog prices at that time. A second hog loan program was announced in November 2002 in response to the high feed prices and depressed market prices that hog producers were experiencing. A third hog loan program was announced in December 2007, again in response to the high feed prices and depressed market prices.

During 2012-13, budgeted and actual loans under this program were:

2002 STHP Outstanding Loans (In thousands of dollars)	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Variance** Over (Under)
Beginning Balance	Nil	$ 6	
Additions			
Reductions	Nil	$ (6)	
Ending Balance	Nil	Nil	Nil

Explanation of Variance:
All loans have been repaid.

2008 STHP Outstanding Loans (In thousands of dollars)	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Variance** Over (Under)
Beginning Balance	$ 1,693	$ 3,283	
Additions			
Reductions	$ (683)	$(1,179)	
Ending Balance	$ 1,010	$ 2,104	$ 1,094

Explanation of Variance:
Loan loss allowance adjustment.

Appendix C: Legislation Administered by the Ministry

The Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan Act
The Agricultural Equipment Dealerships Act
The Agricultural Implements Act
The Agricultural Leaseholds Act
The Agricultural Operations Act
The Agricultural Safety Net Act
The Agri-Food Act, 2004
The Agrologists Act, 1994
The Animal Identification Act
The Animal Products Act
The Animal Protection Act, 1999
The Apiaries Act, 2005
The Crop Payments Act
The Department of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Revitalization Act
The Diseases of Animals Act
The Expropriation (Rehabilitation Projects) Act
The Family Farm Credit Act
The Farmers' Counselling and Assistance Act
The Farm Financial Stability Act
The Farming Communities Land Act
The Grain Charges Limitation Act
The Horned Cattle Purchases Act
The Irrigation Act, 1996
The Land Bank Repeal and Temporary Provisions Act
The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Act
The Line Fence Act
The Pastures Act
The Pest Control Act
The Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act
The Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute Act, 1999
The Provincial Lands Act *
The Sale or Lease of Certain Lands Act *
The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation Act
The Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation Act
The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act
The Stray Animals Act
The Vegetable, Fruit and Honey Sales Act
The Veterinarians Act, 1987
The Veterinary Services Act
The Weed Control Act

**Joint responsibility*

Appendix D: Special Purpose Funds and Agencies with Legislative responsibilities to Saskatchewan Agriculture

Special purpose funds year-end

Horned Cattle Fund

Individual Cattle Feeder Loan Guarantee Provincial Assurance Fund

Livestock Services Revolving Fund

Pastures Revolving Fund

Agencies

Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan

Agricultural Implements Board

Agri-Food Council

Crop Reinsurance Fund of Saskatchewan

Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation

Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute

Saskatchewan Agricultural Stabilization Fund

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

Agencies under the Agri-Food Council

Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan

Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission

Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission

Saskatchewan Broiler Hatching Egg Producers' Marketing Board

Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission

Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association

Saskatchewan Egg Producers

Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

Saskatchewan Milk Marketing Board

Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission

Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission

Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board

Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board

Saskatchewan Turkey Producers' Marketing Board

Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission

Sask Pork

Appendix E: Third Party Funding

		($000's)
Industry Assistance Grants		
Budgeted Industry Assistance Grants		3,267
Prairie Diagnostic Services Inc.	2,385	
Saskatchewan 4-H Council Inc.	300	
Agriculture in the Classroom	150	
Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture	70	
Budgeted grants $50,000 and under	362	
Miscellaneous Industry Assistance Grants		191
Miscellaneous grants $50,000 and under		
Comprehensive Pest Control Program		
Gopher Control Rebate Program – provides producers, rural municipalities and First Nations bands with 50 per cent reimbursement for eligible gopher control products.		60
Fieldworker Program – support for the control of pests and diseases such as rats, perennial weeds, Hantavirus and Dutch Elm Disease.		1,000
Black Fly Control Program – funding to purchase and apply chemicals to control the problems caused by black flies and the harm invoked on livestock in northern Saskatchewan.		138
Beaver Control Program – funding to support the removal of problem beavers in the province.		500
Total Industry Assistance		**5,156**
Research and Technology Grants		
Research and Development Grants		**14,174**
Funding provided through a number of mechanisms, including the Agriculture Development Fund, to support research and development. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to: improved food quality and safety, decreased agricultural production risk, increased livestock competitiveness and the development of proprietary technology and know-how in novel applications.		
Strategic Research Programs		**2,518**
Provides funding to cover the salaries of 15 Research Scientist/Technician teams at the University of Saskatchewan and the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute. The program covers four broad research themes including crop genetic improvement, foods and bio-product development, soils/environment and livestock research.		
Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute		**995**
Core funding is provided to the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) which contributes to their mandate of assisting the agriculture industry through applied research, development and testing. PAMI focuses on farm equipment design, bio-energy and processing as well as livestock production and economics through their relationship with the Western Beef Development Centre.		

Ag-West Bio Inc.	**100**
Agriculture contributes to Ag-West Bio Inc.'s focus on developing products derived from living organisms with market applications in agricultural, environmental, industrial, energy and bio-processing, and health and nutrition markets.	
Business Risk Management	**224,383**
Provides the provincial contributions to the AgriStability and AgriInvest programs.	
Provides the provincial contributions to AgriRecovery programs (Excess Moisture Program, Pasture Recovery Initiative and Feed and Forage Program).	
Crop Insurance	**182,300**
Provides funding for the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to administer insurance programs which protect grain and livestock producers from production failures due to natural hazards. SCIC also delivers programs which compensate producers for crop damage caused by big game and migratory waterfowl.	
Growing Forward	**26,954**
Provides funding for the federal contributions for non-BRM programs under the Growing Forward Framework Agreement with the federal government.	
Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program	**2,493**
Cost of providing incentives to purchasers of leased Crown land including a four per cent incentive from the sale price and favourable financing terms.	
Meat Hygiene Pilot Project	**875**
Cost of funding pilot projects to assess the challenges to small and medium-sized slaughter and meat processing establishments in Canada to meet the federal requirements to ensure meat safety and enhance market access and to support necessary investments to upgrade provincially inspected facilities.	
Miscellaneous	
Irrigation Branch – provides funding to the Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation for non-district irrigation members.	**35**
Irrigation Branch – funding for the rehabilitation of the M1 Canal transferred to the Water Security Agency on March 31, 2013.	**4,178**
Lands Branch – provides compensation to rural municipalities and Conservation and Development Authorities for tax levies on vacant patented Crown land and for arrears owed on behalf of former Crown land lessees.	**54**
Livestock Branch – grant to the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to support investigation of welfare complaints involving livestock.	**530**
Total Third Party Funding	**464,745**

Appendix F: 2012-13 New and Amended Regulations

Amended Regulations:

- ***The 2009 Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program Amendment Regulations, 2012*** – The amended regulations provide assistance to producers, rural municipalities, irrigation districts and First Nation bands by providing funds to offset the cost of developing secure water supplies for agricultural purposes. The amendments increased the amount of funding available for irrigation districts and will allow districts to increase their infill acres.
- ***The Gopher Control Rebate Amendment Regulations, 2012*** – The regulations assisted producers and First Nation bands by providing them with a 50 per cent rebate for money spent on eligible gopher control products. The program also provided assistance to rural municipalities who purchased gopher control products and resold the products at a subsidized cost to producers.
- ***The Pest Control Products Amendment Regulations, 2012*** – The regulations regulate the safe and responsible use of pest control products in Saskatchewan. The amendments provided for an update to the pesticide licensing framework standards to be more in-line with other provinces and allowed the program to move further toward full cost recovery.
- ***The Saskatchewan Flax Development Plan Amendment Regulations, 2012*** – The amendments promote accountability with respect to the rate of levy and reflect the evolving nature of Saskatchewan's flax industry.
- ***The Winter Cereals Development Plan Amendment Regulations, 2012*** – The amendments modernized the board member election/appointment process to ensure continued functionality of the agency and good governance.
- ***The Livestock Inspection and Transportation Amendment Regulations, 2012*** – The regulations provide a framework for inspection of livestock and confirmation of ownership before transport and/or sale. They also set out the criteria for necessary paperwork, vehicle specifications and procedures to transport livestock in and out of the province, and establish fees associated with these services in the Livestock Services Revolving Fund.
- ***The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Regulations, 2012*** – The regulations were amended to bring them in-line with the proclamation of *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*.
- ***The Oat Development Amendment Plan Regulations, 2012*** – The amendments modernized the board member election/appointment process to ensure continued functionality of the agency and good governance.
- ***The Irrigation Amendment Regulations, 2013*** – The regulation amendment was required to implement a new fee schedule for irrigation certificate application fees.